

MISSIONARY POLICY

1701

Proposals

An informal group, invited by the Committee on Arrangements to confer regarding the subject of the morning's discussion, after several meetings, and after hearing Dr. Watson's paper, suggests that the Conference give consideration to the following proposals:

I. Secretarial Visits

1. That the Conference call the attention of the Mission Boards to the proposal that the visits of secretaries to the fields be so arranged that they may occur simultaneously and with a view to inter-church and inter-mission conferences and joint action. With this purpose in view,
2. That the Boards planning to send their secretaries to visit one or more fields be requested to inform the Secretaries of the Committee of Reference and Counsel in order that information regarding such proposed visits may be available and plans for simultaneous visits may be more readily arranged.
3. That the Boards concerned be asked to consider plans for the simultaneous visits of secretaries to the following fields in 1934:
 - a. Congo Belge
 - b. Egypt
 - c. Japan
 - d. Philippine Islands
 - e. Plans for united visit to Mexico now going forward.
4. That other proposed visits be postponed if necessary to make the suggested simultaneous visits possible.

II. Philippine Islands Council

The Boards working in the Philippine Islands, after thorough-going conferences on the whole program of missionary work in the Islands, have agreed upon the organization of a Council to aid in the correlation of their policies and work. This experience may serve to point the way for the adoption of similar plans for other areas or countries. The road by example is "short and effective", and therefore it is proposed

That the Conference, expressing its interest in the development of the plans for the organization of the Philippine Islands Council, requests this Council when organized to continue to keep all the other Mission Boards informed regarding its progress so that its experience may be available in developing plans for a larger measure of cooperation in other lands.

III. Conferences

1. That the Conference instruct the Committee of Reference and Counsel to arrange, if practicable, for conferences of officially appointed representatives of the Mission Boards working in various countries or areas, with a view to exploring the possibilities of better correlation and a larger degree of cooperation in the development of policies adapted to present needs and opportunities.

2. That the Conference suggest the following as areas in which the consideration of revised policies is apparently most urgent:

- a. Congo Belge
- b. India
- c. Japan
- d. East Central China

IV. Oriental Leaders of the Younger Churches.

1. That the Conference, mindful of the importance of encouraging and aiding the national leaders of the younger churches, suggests to the Mission Boards that they take advantage of every opportunity to bring them into conference with the Boards in order that they may recommend policies more fully adapted to the present time. It may be desirable at times to invite such leaders to visit North America especially for the purpose of enlightening the Boards regarding changes and circumstances that may involve changes in policy.

2. That the Conference request the Committee on Foreign Students to arrange occasional meetings between groups of foreign students and representatives of the Mission Boards for the mutual exchange of views and experience in order to promote a better understanding of conditions and issues and the better adjustment of policies to the needs of the present time.

3. That the Conference confirm the action of the Committee of Reference and Counsel in planning to invite representatives of the younger churches to come to North America as "Missions of Help" to strengthen the evangelistic purpose and efforts of the churches in the United States and Canada.

V. Training of Ministers

In view of the central importance of the ministry of the younger churches, and the necessity for a more adequate program of training for them,

That the Conference request the Committee of Reference and Counsel to make plans for a Conference to consider the whole subject of the Training of Ministers, inviting some professors in theological seminaries and professors of missions as well as missionary secretaries to participate in the study of these problems.

VI. Younger Board Members and Secretaries

That the Conference call the attention of the Boards to the great importance of bringing younger men and women into the membership of the Boards and their committees, and into the secretarial staff, and of giving them full opportunity to ~~propose changes in policy~~ ^{advise in policy matters} that the Boards may give more effective service in these days.

VII. Christian Literature

Although the lack of time prevented the group from giving thought to the problem of developing Christian literature, the urgency of this problem is so generally recognized that the group recommends,

That the Conference instruct the Committee of Reference and Counsel to organize a special committee to study the problem and to make practical recommendations to the Boards.

VIII: Rural Missions

That the Conference, sensitive to the fact that most of the people in Asia and Africa are rural, urge the Mission Boards to recognize the inclusive character of Rural Missions rather than to regard it as a department of work. This involves a re-study of our present highly institutionalized program of medical, educational, and evangelistic work centering in a mission station, with a view to developing a comprehensive program centering on the village that shall simultaneously help in every phase of the villager's life - spiritually, mentally, physically, morally, and economically. Particular attention should be called to the general policy of sending missionaries to a rural field without adequate training for his rural job; also to the general lack of provision for suitable rural training for missionaries on furlough. The attention of Mission Boards is called to the recommendations for the "Training of Rural Missionaries" made by the Committee on Missionary Training and Personnel and approved by the Committee of Reference and Counsel. We would refer to the Rural Missions Cooperating Committee the importance of developing and making available to the Boards a statement of rural mission policy and program based on the most successful experiences on the field and in America.

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